

EXHIBIT G

<p>1 in your report?</p> <p>2 A. So as I mentioned in the</p> <p>3 report, there are other programs and</p> <p>4 policies that counties have -- have</p> <p>5 developed, have considered. I think</p> <p>6 there's different levels of evidence for</p> <p>7 them. I felt that these three in</p> <p>8 particular had a solid evidence base</p> <p>9 for -- again, not exhaustive. But these</p> <p>10 three are three really solid ways to</p> <p>11 reduce opioid use disorder and morbidity</p> <p>12 and mortality that have evidence</p> <p>13 associated with them.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you think that these</p> <p>15 three were the ones that had the best</p> <p>16 evidence bases that you were aware of?</p> <p>17 A. I would --</p> <p>18 MS. RELKIN: Objection to</p> <p>19 form.</p> <p>20 You can answer.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: I -- I was not</p> <p>22 asked to evaluate the best</p> <p>23 policies and programs. I was</p> <p>24 asked to -- my approach to this</p>	<p>Page 366</p> <p>1 would be an impact on the epidemic.</p> <p>2 Q. Were there any other reasons</p> <p>3 other than the ones you just described</p> <p>4 why you selected these three?</p> <p>5 A. I would say that evidence</p> <p>6 and impact were the -- the main reasons.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Now, I'm pretty sure</p> <p>8 I know the answer to this question, but</p> <p>9 I'm going to ask it anyway.</p> <p>10 In evaluating these measures</p> <p>11 did you -- did your analysis</p> <p>12 differentiate in any way between</p> <p>13 abatement measures that are needed for</p> <p>14 harms that can be traced back to</p> <p>15 prescription opioids versus those that</p> <p>16 are attributable solely to people whose</p> <p>17 abuse of heroin or other illicit opioids</p> <p>18 has nothing to do with prescription</p> <p>19 opioids?</p> <p>20 MS. RELKIN: Objection to</p> <p>21 form.</p> <p>22 You can answer if you can.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: The case that</p> <p>24 I make in this report is that the</p>
<p>1 report was to outline the evidence</p> <p>2 for three solid programs that had</p> <p>3 a strong evidence base.</p> <p>4 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>5 Q. My question is --</p> <p>6 A. I'm not sure what the best</p> <p>7 means. Can you --</p> <p>8 Q. Well, the best evidence I</p> <p>9 think, is actually, what I asked you.</p> <p>10 Were those the ones that you thought had</p> <p>11 the best evidence?</p> <p>12 A. Not necessarily. I think</p> <p>13 there's a combination of factors that one</p> <p>14 needs to use and that we use in public</p> <p>15 health when choosing what programs and</p> <p>16 policies to highlight in these types of</p> <p>17 contexts. One is the level of evidence.</p> <p>18 Another is the anticipated impact.</p> <p>19 So I think, you know, among</p> <p>20 other reasons that one would focus on</p> <p>21 particular policies, I thought these</p> <p>22 three had both a solid evidence base and,</p> <p>23 specific to the counties, there was</p> <p>24 enough information to suggest that there</p>	<p>Page 367</p> <p>1 increase in the supply of</p> <p>2 prescription opioids under -- was</p> <p>3 an underlying factor for the</p> <p>4 development of additional opioid</p> <p>5 epidemics, including the heroin</p> <p>6 epidemic creating a market,</p> <p>7 increasing the risk among users.</p> <p>8 And so, I would attribute -- in</p> <p>9 terms of the overall opioid</p> <p>10 epidemic, I don't see how one in a</p> <p>11 public health sense would</p> <p>12 differentiate between those two.</p> <p>13 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>14 Q. So you don't think that</p> <p>15 that's something that would be practical</p> <p>16 to do, to try to differentiate between</p> <p>17 those two categories?</p> <p>18 A. That's not what I said. I</p> <p>19 don't think one -- I think that these</p> <p>20 epidemics are so intertwined in terms of</p> <p>21 their underlying causation, that it's not</p> <p>22 only -- the practicality of it is not the</p> <p>23 key aspect. It's the level of evidence</p> <p>24 for causation.</p>

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<p>1 Q. Now, remedial measures that 2 are taken to address the kinds of 3 problems that you've identified in your 4 report are today taken by a variety of 5 different actors, correct?</p> <p>6 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 7 form.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: I don't know 9 what you mean. Can you define 10 remedial measures?</p> <p>11 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>12 Q. Well, you identify three, 13 MAT --</p> <p>14 A. So but -- I'm sorry. Can 15 you define remediation, what you mean by 16 that word.</p> <p>17 Q. Well, let me change the word 18 if that's giving you a problem. 19 Abatement measures, does that make you 20 feel more comfortable?</p> <p>21 A. Sure. The three policies 22 and programs that I talk about.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes. The kinds of programs 24 that you talk about are undertaken in the</p>	<p>1 treatment that vary across a wide variety 2 of contexts.</p> <p>3 Q. And that would include MAT, 4 correct?</p> <p>5 A. So as I've said, I am not 6 sure what you mean by federal funding. 7 There is federal funding for health 8 insurance that is included in what I've 9 outlined here.</p> <p>10 Q. So federally funded health 11 insurance pays for some of these 12 measures, correct?</p> <p>13 A. It depends on the -- on the 14 context.</p> <p>15 Q. Have you ever heard of 16 grants that are made available to local 17 governments to pay for MAT?</p> <p>18 A. Again, I would need to see 19 some specifics on a particular type of 20 grant. Certainly there are a number of 21 programs that are available to help 22 individuals who are unfortunately 23 addicted to opioids.</p> <p>24 Q. And there's some things that</p>
<p>1 world by a variety of different actors, 2 correct?</p> <p>3 A. Can you describe what you 4 mean by actors.</p> <p>5 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 6 form. Overbroad.</p> <p>7 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>8 Q. Well, for example there are 9 some things that the federal government 10 implements and pays for, correct?</p> <p>11 A. Can you give me an example? 12 I can't --</p> <p>13 Q. You're not aware of any? 14 Are you aware of anything in these 15 categories that the federal government 16 pays for?</p> <p>17 A. I need -- I need some 18 specifics in terms of what exactly you're 19 referring to in order to answer that 20 question.</p> <p>21 Q. Are you aware of federal 22 funding for MAT, for example?</p> <p>23 A. There are reimbursement 24 programs for different levels of</p>	<p>1 are -- some abatement measures that are 2 undertaken at the state level, correct?</p> <p>3 A. I think that there are a 4 broad range of institutions that can 5 participate in reversing the opioid 6 epidemic. What currently occurs in terms 7 of the participation of institutions to 8 reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic 9 and what could possibly occur, -- what 10 I'm addressing here is the evidence for 11 these programs for their ability to 12 reduce the opioid epidemic, and that's 13 what's in the report.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. So would it -- based 15 on what you just said, would it be fair 16 to say that what you've done in your 17 analysis, is try to identify needs 18 without necessarily evaluating who would 19 actually satisfy those needs?</p> <p>20 A. I think what I was asked to 21 do --</p> <p>22 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 23 form.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: As an</p>

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<p>1 All right. So in Section F, 2 this is one of the -- section -- the 3 prior -- prior section you talk about -- 4 generally about the efficacy of naloxone 5 distribution. And then in Section F.5.1 6 you go on to talk about the need 7 specifically in Cuyahoga County and 8 Summit County, correct?</p> <p>9 A. So the first part of 10 Section F.5 provides an evidence base for 11 the efficacy of naloxone in reversing 12 potential failed consequences of an 13 overdose. And also, in addition to that, 14 the evidence base that -- that providing 15 expanded access to naloxone also reduces 16 overdose events. So it's really two 17 different statements.</p> <p>18 Q. But -- but that said, where 19 you talk specifically about the -- trying 20 to quantify needs in Cuyahoga County and 21 Summit County for naloxone, that's 22 Section F.5.1, correct?</p> <p>23 A. That's correct.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. So -- and then you</p>	<p>1 A. This statement was based on 2 data that was provided to me.</p> <p>3 Q. By whom?</p> <p>4 A. By the counsel.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. So -- by counsel, you 6 mean plaintiffs' counsel, not your 7 counsel. We know that.</p> <p>8 A. That's right.</p> <p>9 Q. Yes. Okay.</p> <p>10 So this came from 11 plaintiffs' counsel, correct?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. So am I correct that 14 you don't actually know yourself whether 15 Cuyahoga County provides EMS services?</p> <p>16 A. I evaluated the -- the 17 statement based on what was sent to me.</p> <p>18 Q. Were you assuming, based 19 on -- on the information that was 20 provided to you by counsel, that Cuyahoga 21 County itself was, in fact, providing EMS 22 services?</p> <p>23 A. Again, I think what I have 24 in the report is pretty clear. You know,</p>
<p>1 talk about, in that section, you give -- 2 you make a number of different 3 observations about -- about the numbers 4 and the needs for naloxone.</p> <p>5 But I want to focus just on 6 the first instance, in the last 7 paragraph, which is about naloxone 8 administration kits in Cuyahoga County, 9 correct?</p> <p>10 A. Okay.</p> <p>11 Q. And in there you say, a 12 couple sentences down -- third sentence I 13 think. This is in -- "This is in 14 addition to medical first responders such 15 as EMS who are trained to administer 16 naloxone, available data indicate that in 17 2018 Cuyahoga County EMS administered 18 naloxone at least 4,353 times."</p> <p>19 And then you go on with the 20 parenthetical about that. I'm -- I'm 21 focused on this 4,353 number.</p> <p>22 Does Cuyahoga County 23 actually have EMS services at the county 24 level?</p>	<p>1 I was sent information -- I asked for 2 information about, you know, providing an 3 estimate of the potential impact in the 4 county and that's the information that 5 was provided to me. And that's what's in 6 the report.</p> <p>7 Q. So are you purporting 8 here -- I don't want to use the word 9 purporting. That isn't --</p> <p>10 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 11 form.</p> <p>12 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>13 Q. I don't -- that -- are you 14 intending here to provide an opinion 15 about the naloxone needs that exist for 16 EMS in the city of Cleveland?</p> <p>17 A. What I provided was the 18 information that was given to me about 19 the number of administered naloxone 20 distribution based on the information 21 that I was sent.</p> <p>22 Q. My question though, are you 23 offering any opinions through this report 24 about abatement needs in the city of</p>

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<p>1 Cleveland, to be provided for by the city 2 of Cleveland?</p> <p>3 A. My understanding is the city 4 of Cleveland is in Cuyahoga County; is 5 that correct?</p> <p>6 Q. That -- last I knew, yes.</p> <p>7 A. So I would say that that is 8 covered under the estimates that I have 9 provided.</p> <p>10 Q. If it were demonstrated to 11 you that Cuyahoga County, in fact, does 12 not provide EMS services, would that have 13 any impact on the opinions that you 14 provide in this paragraph?</p> <p>15 A. I mean, you know, let's -- 16 I'm -- I'm -- I keep an open mind to all 17 available evidence. I think the point 18 that I was making in this paragraph is 19 that naloxone is a really important 20 program to reduce overdose. And however 21 it is distributed is how it should be 22 distributed. So if there is new 23 information that I could use, my opinion 24 would not change. Just that distributing</p>	<p>1 convey in that paragraph was some 2 assessment of the overall amount 3 of distribution of naloxone that 4 should occur.</p> <p>5 If there are -- if new 6 information comes to light about 7 specific EMS services, you know, 8 that estimate could be revised. 9 But it doesn't change the overall.</p> <p>10 That's one sentence in the 11 overall paragraph about the 12 estimated number of naloxone 13 administration kits that I would 14 estimate would be necessary.</p> <p>15 So, sure, of course, I keep 16 an open mind. If new information 17 is available, I obviously want to 18 present the most accurate picture 19 that I can. But I think the 20 opinion that I have doesn't 21 change.</p> <p>22 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>23 Q. Do you distinguish in your 24 opinion -- is there a difference in</p>
<p>1 Page 383</p> <p>1 naloxone is an important thing to do in 2 Cuyahoga County.</p> <p>3 Q. Well, you have basically two 4 sets of opinions about naloxone in -- in 5 this report.</p> <p>6 One set of opinions is about 7 whether naloxone is a good and important 8 thing to have out there. The other set 9 of opinions is about specific numbers, 10 and so I'm trying to focus on your 11 opinions about specific numbers.</p> <p>12 And so my question is: 13 If -- if -- leaving aside the question of 14 whether, you know it is important for 15 naloxone to be available in the 16 community, would your opinion about the 17 specific needs of Cuyahoga County be 18 affected if you knew that Cuyahoga County 19 does not provide EMS services?</p> <p>20 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 21 form. Compound.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Again, I think 23 I would -- I would respond to that 24 by saying what I intended to</p>	<p>1 Page 385</p> <p>1 your -- let me start that again. 2 Is there a difference in 3 your view between the amount of naloxone 4 that is needed within Cuyahoga County as 5 opposed to the amount that is needed by 6 Cuyahoga County as a government entity?</p> <p>7 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 8 form.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: I need more 10 information on your 11 differentiation.</p> <p>12 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>13 Q. So you can't answer my 14 question without more information?</p> <p>15 A. I don't understand your 16 question.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. Let me ask you about 18 your section about Summit County.</p> <p>19 You have a similar 20 paragraph, discussing naloxone 21 administration kits in Summit County on 22 the next page, correct?</p> <p>23 A. Mm-hmm.</p> <p>24 Q. And do you know -- and that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 386</p> <p>1 includes, among other things -- there are 2 other things in here. But one of the 3 things that's in there is you have an 4 estimate of the amount of naloxone that 5 is needed for EMS in Summit County, 6 correct?</p> <p>7 A. So what I have in here is, 8 "Data are not currently available to me 9 regarding the total number of first 10 responders in Summit County; however, the 11 Akron Fire Department has a current work 12 force of approximately 354 individuals, 13 and there are 14 EMS/paramedics," and I 14 have a citation that was provided to me.</p> <p>15 "Available data indicate 16 that in 2018 Summit County EMS 17 administered naloxone at least 1,562 18 times. This is likely an underestimate 19 because 81.8 percent of EMS agencies 20 reported."</p> <p>21 Q. Is there such a thing as 22 Summit County EMS?</p> <p>23 A. Again, I don't -- this is 24 the information that was provided to me.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 388</p> <p>1 information come to light, again, the 2 opinion is the opinion. I think 3 providing an estimate for these specific 4 counties is -- is what I was endeavoring 5 to do in these paragraphs.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know whether the 7 Akron Fire Department carries naloxone 8 today?</p> <p>9 A. That information was not 10 provided to me.</p> <p>11 Q. If -- well, I assume the 12 answer is going to be the same. But let 13 me just ask it.</p> <p>14 Assuming that the Akron Fire 15 Department does carry naloxone, do you 16 know who pays for it?</p> <p>17 A. In the -- I'm sorry, this 18 pen is really leaking.</p> <p>19 In the information that was 20 provided to me, the source of funding for 21 each individual naloxone kit was not 22 included.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, in Section C.3 of your 24 report -- let's go back. It starts on</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 387</p> <p>1 If new information comes to light, it 2 doesn't change my opinion that naloxone 3 is very much needed in communities that 4 have a high burden of opioid overdose.</p> <p>5 Q. You say this was information 6 that was provided to you. Again, was it 7 provided to you by plaintiffs' counsel?</p> <p>8 A. That's correct.</p> <p>9 Q. You -- in what you just 10 read, there's a reference to the Akron 11 Fire Department.</p> <p>12 A. Yes. The Akron Fire 13 Department has a current --</p> <p>14 Q. I don't need you to read it 15 again. Is the Akron Fire Department an 16 agency of the Summit County government?</p> <p>17 A. This is the information that 18 was provided to me. I can -- we can go 19 to Reference 195 and look at the 20 information.</p> <p>21 I asked plaintiffs' counsel 22 for information on these different 23 workforce numbers. And these are the 24 numbers that I relied on. Should new</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 389</p> <p>1 Page 32. You provide estimates of the 2 numbers of persons in each of these two 3 counties who were currently living with 4 opioid use disorder, correct? I'll 5 direct you to the last paragraph on Page 6 32, the first sentence.</p> <p>7 A. Yes. "While the number of 8 individuals currently living with opioid 9 use disorder in Cuyahoga and Summit 10 Counties is unknown, I can provide an 11 estimate of the number, given number the 12 overdose deaths."</p> <p>13 Q. And you -- is the estimate 14 that you then -- and we'll walk through 15 this. But is the estimate that you then 16 go on to provide intended to be 17 specifically an estimate of the number of 18 individuals in each county who is 19 currently living with opioid use 20 disorder?</p> <p>21 A. Depend -- so the paper that 22 I relied onto make that assessment looked 23 at individuals who were dependent or 24 regular users of opioids.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 390</p> <p>1 Q. Is that the same thing as 2 people who have opioid use disorder? 3 A. So this is the information 4 that I thought was important to gather an 5 estimate of the number of individuals who 6 would be in need of these services. 7 Q. But my question is -- 8 A. It would be inclusive of 9 opioid use disorder. 10 Q. But is opioid use disorder 11 the same thing as being a dependent or 12 regular user of opioid? 13 A. So the Degenhardt, et al., 14 2011 paper did not assess opioid use 15 disorder. The Degenhardt paper assessed 16 dependent or regular users of opioids. 17 And I used that paper to provide an 18 estimate of the number of individuals in 19 those counties who would be in need of 20 these services, and would include 21 individuals living with opioid use 22 disorder. 23 Q. Is it limited to people who 24 have opioid use disorder or is it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 392</p> <p>1 Keyes-13.) 2 BY MS. WINNER: 3 Q. And is Exhibit 13 in fact 4 the article that you referred to a second 5 ago as the one that you relied upon for 6 this calculation? 7 A. So this article, just to be 8 clear, is a random effect meta-analysis 9 for the mortality, the crude and 10 standardized mortality rates for 11 individuals who are dependent or regular 12 users of opioids. 13 Q. Okay. 14 A. And I relied on it for this 15 assessment. 16 Q. Okay. And this is -- this 17 is the article that you cite in this 18 section of your report? I think it's -- 19 A. I cite this article in this 20 section of the report. 21 Q. And it is, I think, just for 22 the record, this is Reference 151. 23 A. Let me just double-check 24 that.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 391</p> <p>1 broader? 2 A. The estimate is individuals 3 who are dependent or regular users of 4 opioids. 5 Q. Is that likely to be 6 broader, narrower, or the same as the 7 population of people with opioid use 8 disorder? 9 A. Let's see. Individuals who 10 are dependent, so -- and regular users of 11 opioids. I would estimate that it's 12 largely similar. 13 Q. How similar? Do you have a 14 confidence interval or anything like that 15 for that? 16 A. I would need to do a 17 statistical analysis for that. 18 Q. Okay. I'd like to show you 19 what's been previously marked as 20 Exhibit 13 to your deposition, which I'm 21 hoping is the article that you're talking 22 about. 23 (Document marked for 24 identification as Exhibit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 393</p> <p>1 Q. Sure. 2 A. Yes, it is Reference 151. 3 Q. What you pulled out of this 4 report, am I correct -- well, first of 5 all, let's just talk about what this is. 6 This is a -- and I don't 7 want to go into every detail of it. But 8 generally this is a review of multiple 9 studies that evaluates their results on 10 the subject of mortality, correct? 11 A. So the outcomes reported 12 here are two outcomes. One is the crude 13 mortality rate. And one is the 14 standardized mortality rate for specific 15 causes of death across studies that used 16 inclusion criteria -- I'm sorry, that 17 used exclusion criteria that included not 18 reporting heroin or opioid users, 19 opioid-related mortality, or not reported 20 research data or case studies. 21 So that is what the design 22 was, was a multiple search strategy to 23 find studies that assessed mortality 24 among regular and dependent users of</p>

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<p>1 that any one particular study, you might 2 be over or slightly under due to random 3 error or, you know, any number of 4 different reasons. And so in a 5 meta-analysis, what you do is take all 6 the studies on a particular topic and 7 then provide a summary estimate of them. 8 That is the intention of the analysis.</p> <p>9 Q. And -- and you would 10 consider this an epidemiological -- I can 11 never pronounce that word. You are 12 obviously used to it.</p> <p>13 For your field, this is an 14 epidemiological study, or analysis, or 15 review, or whatever the word would be? 16 This is in your -- this comes from your 17 field, this particular paper here?</p> <p>18 A. I guess my question is, what 19 do you mean by my field?</p> <p>20 Q. Well, you are an 21 epidemiologist, correct?</p> <p>22 A. I am an epidemiologist, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. And -- and is this a paper 24 from epidemiology?</p>	<p>1 So your question is? 2 Q. I'm just trying to translate 3 that into more everyday English. Does 4 that mean that --</p> <p>5 A. If 100 people were observed 6 for one year, you would expect there to 7 be .65 overdose deaths.</p> <p>8 Q. Thank you. That's helpful. 9 And that is the -- that .65 10 figure is the number that you then went 11 on to use to apply to overdose statistics 12 to estimate the populations in each of 13 those -- these who had counties overdose 14 related --</p> <p>15 A. I used that as a -- and its 16 related confidence interval, to provide 17 an estimate of the number of dependent or 18 regular users of heroin -- I mean of 19 opioids.</p> <p>20 Q. Now, the -- who are the -- 21 the subjects of these studies? Is -- and 22 I'm not asking you to list them all. Am 23 I correct that they are described in the 24 tables that -- the table that starts, I</p>
<p>1 A. I would say that this paper 2 uses epidemiological studies in order 3 to -- you know, meta-analysis is used -- 4 a lot -- I wouldn't claim it for 5 epidemiology. But this particular paper 6 uses epidemiological data.</p> <p>7 Q. So this -- am I correct 8 that, that what this paper is finding is 9 that there were .65 deaths per 100 person 10 years during which the subjects of the 11 studies were observed?</p> <p>12 A. I'm sorry, I'm just going to 13 go to the place where that is written.</p> <p>14 Can you point again to the 15 page number?</p> <p>16 Q. Sure. Page -- it's -- we're 17 on Page 45.</p> <p>18 A. Sorry.</p> <p>19 Okay. So what this study 20 said in the results section is that 21 "pooled estimates suggested that overdose 22 related mortality was the most common 23 specific cause at .65 deaths per 100,000 24 person years."</p>	<p>1 guess it's on Page 35, Table 1? 2 A. Okay. So Table 1 is 3 included... studies investigating all 4 cause mortality.</p> <p>5 And so table 2 then is 6 cohorts purporting proportion of deaths 7 due to AIDS, overdose, suicide, and 8 traumatic causes of death.</p> <p>9 Q. I'm -- I'm more focused on 10 the nature of the -- I think it's the 11 nature of the sample column.</p> <p>12 No, who -- who were the 13 people who were in these studies?</p> <p>14 MS. RELKIN: Objection.</p> <p>15 Form. Overbroad.</p> <p>16 There's multiple studies.</p> <p>17 Do you want her to go through each 18 one?</p> <p>19 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>20 Q. Do you see on Table 1 21 there's a column that says nature of 22 sample?</p> <p>23 A. So -- yeah, you know, again, 24 I -- you really should look at Table 2,</p>

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<p>1 the report the way the methodology 2 is used. The methodology that I 3 used is standard practice in the 4 epidemiological literature.</p> <p>5 As far as any one particular 6 study that has used this estimate 7 in and of itself, I don't have a 8 specific citation in the report. 9 But it is a standard way to 10 evaluate population sizes in the 11 epidemiological literature.</p> <p>12 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. But I want to follow 14 up on what you just said. You don't have 15 a specific -- I don't have a specific 16 citation in the report, but it is a 17 standard way to evaluate population sizes 18 in the epidemiological literature.</p> <p>19 I just want to focus -- when 20 you say it is a standard way, are you 21 talking about --</p> <p>22 A. I'm talking about the method 23 and not this particular number.</p> <p>24 Q. Got it.</p>	<p>1 A. That's correct.</p> <p>2 Q. And the overdose death 3 statistics from those counties that you 4 used included all drug overdoses, not 5 just opioid overdoses, correct?</p> <p>6 A. So just to be clear, that 7 is -- the reason for that is because the 8 Degenhardt meta-analysis looked at all 9 drug overdose deaths among regular or 10 dependent users. And so to provide a 11 comparable analysis, I needed to use all 12 drug overdose deaths in the counties.</p> <p>13 Q. But those were all drug 14 overdose -- okay. Strike that.</p> <p>15 Let me try to streamline 16 this a little bit. Let's go back to 17 Degenhardt. Is that an appropriate way 18 to refer to Exhibit 13. If you would 19 turn back to the abstract. Near the 20 bottom there is a sentence that reads, "A 21 multi-variable regressions found the 22 following predictors of mortality rates: 23 Country of origin, the proportion of 24 sample injecting, the extent to which</p>
<p>1 MS. DO AMARAL: Counsel, is 2 it a good time for us to take a 3 break?</p> <p>4 MS. WINNER: Sure, no 5 problem.</p> <p>6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time 7 is 4:18 p.m. Going off the 8 record.</p> <p>9 (Short break.)</p> <p>10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time 11 is 4:32 p.m. Back on the record.</p> <p>12 BY MS. WINNER:</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Before the break, we 14 were discussing the calculations you did 15 in Section C.3 of your report.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Correct?</p> <p>18 And am I correct that you 19 took this .65 per 100 person-year number, 20 and you then applied that to the overdose 21 deaths in 2013 in each of the two 22 counties to estimate the opioid dependent 23 or regular user population in each 24 county?</p>	<p>1 populations were recruited from an entire 2 country versus sub-national, and year of 3 publication."</p> <p>4 Did I read that correctly?</p> <p>5 A. You read that statement 6 correctly. I'd like to go just to the 7 methods section to make sure that -- 8 because sometimes in abstracts it's an 9 oversimplification of what was done.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. Is there something 11 inconsistent? I assume you studied this 12 study fairly carefully before you used 13 it.</p> <p>14 A. I did study -- I did study 15 it carefully, but with over 200 16 citations, I just want to be sure that we 17 don't abstract something from an abstract 18 that is defined more carefully in the 19 paper itself.</p> <p>20 Okay. So on page 43, I 21 think they provide more information on 22 study covariates. So the proportion of 23 the sample injecting was included in the 24 covariate as a continuous variable at a</p>
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<p>1 bivariable level. Study is conducted in 2 countries low and middle income. Low 3 case ascertainment. High percentage of 4 sample injecting.</p> <p>5 So yes.</p> <p>6 Q. All right. Then there's a 7 section called "Limitations" on Page -- 8 starting on Page 46. I've seen a section 9 entitled "Limitations" in a number of the 10 studies that you've cited. Is that a 11 common section to include in an article 12 like this?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And what is the author 15 generally -- what is the purpose of a 16 Limitations section in a paper like this?</p> <p>17 A. Generally, in 18 epidemiological studies, the purpose of a 19 limitations section is to provide the 20 reader with any additional information 21 that would aid in their interpretation of 22 the paper and to provide an opportunity 23 for the author to provide additional 24 information on the robustness of their</p>	<p>1 there is heterogeneity, to use that word 2 again, there are differences in the 3 length of follow-up of the cohorts from 4 one to 36 years.</p> <p>5 When you meta-analyze 6 something, you're aggregating across all 7 of that.</p> <p>8 Q. Sometimes when you aggregate 9 over a heterogenous set of data, you can 10 gloss over variations, meaningful 11 variations within the data, correct?</p> <p>12 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 13 form.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: So anytime we 15 provide, you know, this is what 16 epidemiology does. We provide 17 aggregate estimates of risk. We 18 don't provide estimates at the 19 individual level. So we're always 20 aggregating to provide an 21 assessment of risk factors.</p> <p>22 You know, the overdose 23 deaths in the counties are also an 24 aggregate of a lot of individuals.</p>
<p>1 results to any particular limitation of 2 the methods, data source, et cetera.</p> <p>3 Q. Well, the first paragraph 4 under limitations here says that, "The 5 studies reviewed here differed 6 considerably. The length of follow-up of 7 the cohorts ranged from one to 36 years. 8 This is problematic, because drug use can 9 change over time period, and this can 10 affect mortality rates."</p> <p>11 I'll stop there.</p> <p>12 Do you think that that is an 13 accurate statement of a limitation of 14 this review?</p> <p>15 A. I would say that -- I would 16 say that that is an accurate limitation 17 of the review. But again, applying it in 18 the way that I did in the report, I think 19 you provide a confidence interval around 20 the estimate. You know, that's the best 21 available estimate for the rate of the 22 standardized mortality ratio for a 23 dependent user.</p> <p>24 So I think that even though</p>	<p>1 BY MS. WINNER: 2 Q. But aggregation can be -- 3 the reason heterogeneity is identified as 4 a limitation here, is because, or at 5 least in part because aggregate -- it 6 means that aggregation can yield results 7 that are less meaningful?</p> <p>8 A. I don't necessarily think 9 that that is -- it really depends on what 10 the research question you're asking is 11 and what you're using those data for, in 12 terms of the meaningfulness of 13 aggregation. Sometimes we want an 14 aggregate estimate of the average risk of 15 a certain outcome across the heterogenous 16 subgroups that make up that average risk.</p> <p>17 Q. Have mortality rates from 18 overdose deaths in the drug using 19 population changed over time?</p> <p>20 A. Over what time period 21 specifically?</p> <p>22 Q. Over any time period over 23 the last 20 years?</p> <p>24 A. So specifically in the last,</p>

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<p>1 you know, three years since 2013, 2 mortality rates have increased. 3 Q. And did mortality rates 4 change in the time period before the last 5 three years? 6 A. The mortality rates, the 7 overall population mortality rate due to 8 overdose has changed. Is your question 9 about changes over -- can you be specific 10 about the population with which you're 11 asking the question. 12 Q. Okay. That's a fair 13 question. Let's start with the overall 14 population mortality rate has changed 15 over time, has it not? 16 A. The overall population 17 mortality rate of -- 18 Q. For overdose? 19 A. For overdose has increased. 20 Q. Has the overall mortality 21 rate varied over time before the past 22 three years among opioid users? 23 A. You know, I would have to go 24 to meta-analysis in order to answer that</p>	<p>1 California. One is based in Albuquerque. 2 One is among Vietnam veterans. And 3 overall it does not provide data on 4 whether the overdose rate among those 5 different populations have changed over 6 time. 7 So as far as I know, you 8 know, the -- the overdose rate among 9 regular or dependent users of opioids in 10 the United States has not been 11 systematically investigated. 12 Q. Now, you do however have an 13 opinion that the mortality rate has 14 changed in the past three years because 15 of the fentanyl problem? 16 A. The population mortality 17 rate has. 18 Q. The population mortality. 19 Is that also true of the -- 20 the opioid using population mortality 21 rate? 22 MS. RELKIN: Objection to 23 form. 24 THE WITNESS: So I'm sorry,</p>
<p>1 question. 2 You're asking about the 3 United States? 4 Q. Yes. 5 A. So let's see if there are 6 U.S. studies -- 7 Q. Well, let me just ask, is 8 that something you've looked at before I 9 asked you that question just now? 10 A. What the variation over 11 time -- so what I used as a meta-analysis 12 that pooled data across a number of 13 different studies. To the extent that 14 there are U.S. studies involved in that 15 particular estimate, I don't believe that 16 there are, but I would like to just 17 confirm. 18 So the meta-analysis used 19 three different studies from North 20 America, from the United -- no, I'm 21 sorry, four different studies -- I 22 apologize again. No, that's from Canada. 23 So there are a number of 24 studies cited in here. One is based in</p>	<p>1 your question is whether there is 2 available data on the overdose 3 rate from fentanyl among opioid 4 users? 5 BY MS. WINNER: 6 Q. Let me -- let me -- let me 7 take a step back and ask a different 8 question. 9 If the -- some opioids, if 10 abused, are more lethal than others, 11 correct? 12 A. It depends on the amount, 13 the dose, and the duration of use. 14 Q. But -- but in terms of -- 15 A. I wouldn't make -- I just -- 16 I wouldn't make a blanket statement about 17 products and their overdose potential. 18 Q. Well, do you believe, based 19 on the data you've seen that illicitly 20 manufactured and sold fentanyl that's 21 used to adulterate heroin and cocaine and 22 other drugs, is -- contributes to more 23 overdose deaths than abuse of Vicodin for 24 example?</p>